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THE SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY
MAINTENANCE OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION
CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE
INTERNATIONAL DRUG CONTROL
HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS
MEASURES TO ELIMINATE INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-third year

Letter dated 13 July 1998 from the Permanent Representatives of Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to transmit annexed hereto the texts of the Joint Statement by the President of the Russian Federation and the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Declaration between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Kazakhstan on Eternal Friendship and Alliance Leading into the Twenty-First Century and the Agreement between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Kazakhstan on the Delimitation of the Seabed of the Northern Part of the Caspian Sea for the Purposes of Exercising Their Sovereign Rights to the Exploitation of Its Subsoil, which were signed at the meeting between the Presidents of Russia and Kazakhstan on 6 July 1998.

We should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annexes circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under items 43, 81, 97, 103, 104, 112 and 152 of the agenda of the fifty-second session, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) A. ARYSTANBEKOVA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
of the Republic of Kazakhstan
to the United Nations

(Signed) S. LAVROV
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
of the Russian Federation
to the United Nations

Annex I

Joint Statement by the President of the Russian Federation and the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan

On 6 July 1998, President N. A. Nazarbaev paid a working visit to the Russian Federation. President B. N. Yeltsin of the Russian Federation and President Nazarbaev, having discussed in detail topical issues of Russian-Kazakh cooperation and international problems, make the following statement.

1. Russia and Kazakhstan, on the threshold of the twenty-first century, are reaching a new level in their relations of eternal friendship and cooperation. Russian-Kazakh relations are of fundamental significance for both States and are an important factor for international stability and cooperation in Eurasia.

Russia and Kazakhstan, drawing on their accumulated experience and taking the new realities into account, will consistently and steadfastly move forward along the path of intensifying and enriching all-round cooperation between them leading into the twenty-first century.

Towards these ends, the existing practice of engaging in regular political contacts at the highest level, meetings of the heads of Government, consultations between the Ministers for Foreign Affairs, contacts between the Parliaments, parliamentarians and executive branches, and between the subjects of the Russian Federation and the provinces of the Republic of Kazakhstan, will be actively developed.

2. Russia and Kazakhstan, on the basis of their own interests, are contributing their joint efforts towards achieving a reliable guarantee of each other's unity, territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence, and will take steps to curb any manifestations of separatism.

3. The Presidents accord the highest significance to expanding mutually beneficial Russian-Kazakh cooperation aimed at integrating trade, the economy, investment and science and technology, in both bilateral and multilateral forms.

The two Governments have been charged with preparing, by the end of 1998, for signature by the Presidents, a treaty on deepening economic cooperation between Russia and Kazakhstan over a 10-year period together with a corresponding programme of action containing a set of specific measures to implement it, including the development of industrial, scientific and technological cooperation, direct contacts between economic agents involving all forms of ownership, and cooperation between regions.

4. In deciding to sign the Agreement on the Delimitation of the Seabed of the Northern Part of the Caspian Sea for the Purposes of Exercising Their Sovereign Rights to the Exploitation of Its Subsoil, the Parties are of the understanding that the Agreement will bring the necessary degree of precision to the legal status of the northern Caspian, open up prospects for wide-ranging Russian-Kazakh cooperation with participation from other countries in the field of mineral prospecting and development, and provide a good example for the Caspian

States in their search for ways to settle the problem of the Caspian as quickly as possible, on a basis of compromise, and to sign the relevant international convention.

The Parties will take all possible steps to promote the conservation of the unique ecological system of the Caspian basin and to have all the Caspian States sign an agreement on the conservation, reproduction and rational use of the biological resources of the Caspian Sea.

Russia and Kazakhstan will take into account the existing differences in approach by the interested States to the issue of how to transport the hydrocarbon products of the Caspian region to world markets, and of the large variety of possible routes. However, Russia and Kazakhstan take as given that it is economically desirable to create a transport system within the framework of the Caspian Pipeline Consortium. The two Governments are charged with ensuring that construction of the system will begin in October this year.

5. Russia and Kazakhstan will continue to cooperate actively in the peaceful uses of outer space on a bilateral basis and also within the framework of international programmes. The Presidents reaffirm the importance of the continued use of the Baikonur launch site in the interests of Russia and Kazakhstan, all States of the Commonwealth of Independent States and other countries, and for world scientific progress. Towards these ends, mutual agreement has been reached on the financial conditions for using the Baikonur launch site whereby Russia will lease the site on the basis of the Agreement between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Kazakhstan on the Fundamental Principles and Conditions for the Use of the Baikonur Launch Site and the Agreement between the Government of the Russian Federation and the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan for Lease of the Baikonur Facility.

The Presidents pronounced themselves in favour of developing and intensifying Russian-Kazakh cooperation in the field of nuclear energy.

6. Russia and Kazakhstan intend to extend and improve contacts in the fields of defence and military technology, regarding them as an important component of their mutual strategic partnership in the interests of maintaining regional and global security.

Russia and Kazakhstan will actively cooperate in ensuring reliable joint defence within the framework of the common military and strategic space based on the 1992 Treaty on Collective Security, the agreed provisions of their military doctrines and the principle of sufficiency in defence.

7. The Presidents noted the importance of regulating the regime governing their lengthy common border in the interests of ensuring the requisite border, customs, migration, health and other generally accepted forms of control.

In this context, the Presidents expressed support for a gradual delimitation of the border between Russia and Kazakhstan on the understanding that it has been and will remain a border of friendship, good-neighbourliness and cooperation that does not separate but rather unites the fraternal peoples of Russia and Kazakhstan.

8. Russia and Kazakhstan will intensify their cooperation in combating transborder organized crime, international terrorism, contraband narcotics and armaments and in opposing the spread of aggressive forms of religious and other extremism.

To these ends, regular joint consultations and exchange of information and experience will take place, and joint and coordinated action will be taken when necessary.

9. Each Party will protect the rights of its citizens living in the territory of the other Party and will provide them and their compatriots with support in accordance with the norms of international law. To these ends, the Parties shall enhance coordinated action by the human rights commissions reporting to the President of the Russian Federation and the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Russia and Kazakhstan reaffirm their interest in opening cultural and information centres on a reciprocal basis.

10. Russia and Kazakhstan will take all possible steps to support and promote contacts between the citizens and civil associations of the two countries, as well as cooperation in the areas of culture, education and science. They shall also take all possible steps to promote the expansion of their common information space.

11. Russia and Kazakhstan will take coinciding or similar positions on key international problems and will redouble their joint action in the foreign policy area both bilaterally and within the United Nations, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and other international organizations and forums.

The Parties will highlight the importance, for the Central Asia region also, of all countries' observing the international nuclear non-proliferation and test-ban regime.

Russia and Kazakhstan, expressing their serious concern at the increasing tension in South Asia as a result of the nuclear tests carried out by India and Pakistan, urge those countries to refrain from carrying out further tests and to accede to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

Russia supports Kazakhstan's initiative in convening the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-building Measures in Asia.

12. Russia and Kazakhstan reaffirm their steadfast commitment to developing and strengthening the Commonwealth of Independent States and to increasing the dynamism and effectiveness of the work of this historic association for integration. In this context, they regard the successful conclusion of the Special Inter-State Forum on improving and reforming the Commonwealth as highly significant.

13. The Presidents note with satisfaction the ever more active and productive nature of the cooperation among the States members of the Customs Union.

Russia welcomes the efforts of Kazakhstan and its other Commonwealth partners to intensify cooperation among the States members of the Central Asian Union.

The Parties believe that a varied-speed and multiple-format model for the development of cooperation and integration is best in the interests of strengthening the Commonwealth as a whole.

14. Russia and Kazakhstan reaffirm their readiness to extend cooperation in the context of international efforts, including efforts involving the United Nations and OSCE, for the political and economic stabilization of the Republic of Tajikistan on the basis of the General Agreement on the Establishment of Peace and National Accord in Tajikistan of 27 June 1997, and wish the people of that country success in building a democratic, legal, secular and unitary State.

15. The Presidents express serious disquiet in connection with the persistent explosive situation in Afghanistan, which is fraught with danger for regional security. Russia and Kazakhstan call upon the Afghan parties in conflict, and first and foremost the Taliban, to engage in constructive dialogue under United Nations auspices and with the active encouragement of interested States, and to reach a political settlement by establishing a broad-based government taking into account the legal rights and interests of all ethnic and religious groups and all political forces.

16. The Presidents expressed their satisfaction with the results of the working visit to the Russian Federation by President N. A. Nazarbaev of the Republic of Kazakhstan, which was held in the traditional atmosphere of friendship, mutual understanding and trust.

The signing of the Declaration between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Kazakhstan on Eternal Friendship and Alliance Leading into the Twenty-First Century marks a watershed in relations between the two countries.

The heads of State are engaging the ministries, departments and organizations of their countries in efforts to achieve the full and speediest implementation of the agreements reached as part of the visit.

President B. N. Yeltsin of the Russian Federation will make a state visit to the Republic of Kazakhstan in September 1998.

The President
of the Russian Federation
B. N. Yeltsin

The President
of the Republic of Kazakhstan
N. A. Nazarbaev

Moscow, 6 July 1998

Annex II

Declaration between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Kazakhstan on Eternal Friendship and Alliance Leading into the Twenty-First Century

We, the President of the Russian Federation and the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan,

Having comprehensively discussed the state of relations between our two countries and their prospects for development in the broad international context on the threshold of the twenty-first century,

On the basis of the historically established traditions and positive values of the close, friendly relations between the peoples of Russia and Kazakhstan, and their desire for comprehensive cooperation, rapprochement and integration,

Being convinced that the strengthening of good-neighbourly relations and interaction at many levels between Russia and Kazakstan is in keeping with the fundamental interests of the peoples of the two States and is conducive to international peace and security,

Affirming their commitment to the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations, the Helsinki Final Act and other instruments of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the universally recognized norms of international law and international standards in the field of human rights,

Being desirous of cooperation on a large scale in the framework of the Commonwealth of Independent States and being resolved to fulfil the obligations arising from the participation of the Russian Federation and the Republic of Kazakhstan in the Commonwealth,

Adopt this Declaration and solemnly proclaim:

The Russian Federation and the Republic of Kazakhstan are bound together by eternal friendship. On the threshold of the twenty-first century they undertake to preserve and strengthen this friendship, which is the guarantee of national security, political stability, international agreement and the prosperity of the two States.

The Russian Federation and the Republic of Kazakhstan affirm their attachment to the Treaty between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Kazakhstan on Friendship, Cooperation and Mutual Assistance of 25 May 1992, and regard it as the unshakeable legal basis for the current and future development and intensification of bilateral relations and harmonious interaction between the two fraternal States and peoples.

The Russian Federation and the Republic of Kazakhstan build their relationship on the foundation of large-scale cooperation and mutual confidence, respect for independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and the

inviolability of State borders, the peaceful resolution of disputes and the non-use of force or the threat of force, the principles of non-interference in each other's internal affairs, equality of rights and mutual interest.

The Russian Federation and the Republic of Kazakhstan, as good neighbours, undertake to bear fully in mind each other's legitimate interests in the political, economic, military and other fields.

The Russian Federation and the Republic of Kazakhstan shall cooperate closely in the field of foreign policy, jointly achieving improvements in the situation and bringing about peace and security in the European space and throughout the world. They believe that, in the conditions of the emerging pluralistic world, it is essential to transcend approaches based on bloc politics, and to avoid drawing new lines of division in international relations.

The Russian Federation and the Republic of Kazakhstan shall jointly take all measures available to them to eliminate a threat of aggression or to counter acts of aggression directed against them by any State or group of States, and, in case of necessity, shall afford each other appropriate assistance, including military assistance, in exercise of the right of collective self-defence under Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations.

The Russian Federation and the Republic of Kazakhstan shall extend their mutually advantageous cooperation in the commercial and economic, investment and scientific and technical fields, intensifying the economic integration of their two countries and creating conditions for the establishment of a single economic space, bearing in mind agreements concluded within the framework of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

The Russian Federation and the Republic of Kazakhstan shall cooperate effectively in developing the fuel and power sectors of their two countries, and also in the export of fuels to world markets.

The Russian Federation and the Republic of Kazakhstan shall develop scientific and technological cooperation in priority areas of science, technology and the new technologies that are of joint concern.

The Russian Federation and the Republic of Kazakhstan shall create the essential legal, economic and organizational conditions for the establishment of a common employment market operating on the basis of the regulation of labour migration, and an effective system for job creation and for retaining and developing management potential.

The Russian Federation and the Republic of Kazakhstan shall place emphasis on the establishment and development of a unified joint transport system and on the creation, for that purpose, of the necessary legal, economic and organizational conditions for the unimpeded carriage of goods and the transport of passengers.

The Russian Federation and the Republic of Kazakhstan shall conduct a coordinated social policy and, to that end, shall harmonize their national health-care and social-protection systems, and shall take action progressively

to equalize the levels of pensions, benefits and allowances for various categories of citizens.

The Russian Federation and the Republic of Kazakhstan shall resolutely and purposefully endeavour to improve the Commonwealth of Independent States in order to harness its potential to the full, while scrupulously respecting the interests of all member States.

The Russian Federation and the Republic of Kazakhstan shall also intensify their collaboration at many levels in the framework of the Customs Union and of the Treaty on Deepening Integration in the Economic and Humanitarian Fields of 29 March 1996.

The Russian Federation and the Republic of Kazakhstan consider the attainment of ecological security to be of major importance. In accordance with their international obligations and national legislation, they shall encourage collaboration in that field through the exchange of experience on the rational utilization of natural resources, the introduction of ecologically clean technologies and the adoption of measures to protect and conserve the environment.

The Russian Federation and the Republic of Kazakhstan shall ensure that their citizens, irrespective of their ethnic background, enjoy equal rights and freedoms without any discrimination, limitations or preferential treatment. Ethnic Russians residing in the multinational Republic of Kazakhstan and ethnic Kazaks residing in the multinational Russian Federation have been, are and will continue to be integral elements of Russian and Kazakh society. They make and will continue to make a valuable contribution to the development of the two States along the path of independence, democracy and prosperity, and are one of the factors that bring the two countries together and ensure the strategic durability of Russian-Kazakh relations.

The Russian Federation and the Republic of Kazakhstan shall use all means to foster the continuing spiritual and cultural bonds linking the peoples of the two countries, and to intensify their reciprocal ties in the field of culture, science, education and information.

The Russian Federation and the Republic of Kazakhstan shall promote the establishment of wide-ranging contacts between scientific, creative and other unions and funds operating in accordance with their national legislation.

The Russian Federation and the Republic of Kazakhstan are firmly committed to the concepts of the eternal friendship and brotherhood of their peoples, and shall establish an association of cultural and scientific workers for eternal friendship between Russia and Kazakhstan.

The two sides shall use all means to promote a convergence of their national systems of education through the retention of a common educational and intellectual space based on the establishment of an inter-State strategy for education and on the development of common curricula for the education of students and pupils, the training and retraining of specialists, and the

recognition of the equivalence of certificates in higher, specialized secondary and secondary education and diplomas conferring academic degrees and titles.

The Russian Federation and the Republic of Kazakhstan shall create joint educational establishments (a Russian-Kazakh university and a Kazakh-Russian university, as well as preparatory schools).

The Russian Federation and the Republic of Kazakhstan shall establish conditions for the preservation and strengthening of a common cultural space on the basis of the established historical ties and contacts between unions and societies of creative artists and cultural, literary and artistic workers, and for the preservation of the ethnic and linguistic individuality of their peoples.

The Presidents of the Russian Federation and the Republic of Kazakhstan, which see their historic objective and task as being to strengthen the inviolable friendship between their peoples, are convinced that the twenty-first century affords enormous opportunities to both States for all-round development and for economic and cultural advancement in conditions of lasting peace, stability and guaranteed security.

DONE at Moscow on 6 July 1998.

For the Russian Federation
B. N. YELTSIN

For the Republic of Kazakhstan
N. A. NAZARBAEV

Annex III

Agreement between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Kazakhstan on the Delimitation of the Seabed of the Northern Part of the Caspian Sea for the Purposes of Exercising Their Sovereign Rights to the Exploitation of its Subsoil

The Russian Federation and the Republic of Kazakhstan, hereinafter referred to as "the Parties",

Considering their mutual interest in establishing the legal foundations for the activities of both Parties to exploit the subsoil of the northern part of the Caspian Sea,

Desiring to bring about favourable conditions for the realization of their sovereign rights in the Caspian Sea, and also, in a spirit of mutual understanding and cooperation, to regulate matters connected with the effective utilization of the mineral resources of the seabed of the northern part of the Caspian Sea and the subsoil thereof,

Bearing in mind the geopolitical changes that have occurred in the region and that have strengthened the climate of cooperation, good-neighbourliness and mutual understanding between the Parties,

Taking into account that the existing legal regime of the Caspian Sea does not meet present-day requirements and does not fully regulate the mutual relations of the Caspian States,

Appealing to the Caspian States to conclude rapidly, by common accord, a convention on the legal status of the Caspian Sea,

Being guided by the principles and norms of international law, and by the interests of the Parties in developing and utilizing the mineral resources of the seabed and subsoil of the northern part of the Caspian Sea,

On the understanding that, in defining the legal status of the Caspian Sea, the Parties will consider the possibility of establishing, in that body of water, zones for border, customs and health control, fishing zones within agreed limits, and also zones for common use,

Recognizing their responsibility towards the present and future generations for the conservation of the Caspian Sea and the integrity of its unique ecological system,

Mindful of the importance of the existing protected areas for the conservation and renewal of the biological resources of the Caspian Sea,

Recognizing the importance of conducting joint scientific research and the necessity of complying with special ecological requirements in prospecting for and exploiting the mineral resources of the seabed and subsoil of the northern part of the Caspian Sea,

Convinced of the necessity of developing uniform approaches to the establishment of ecological-safety systems, including procedures for environmental-impact assessments, ecological-impact studies and monitoring,

Accepting that the delimitation of the seabed of the Caspian Sea under this Agreement does not extend to its biological resources,

Bearing in mind the bilateral agreements that have been reached on questions relating to the legal status of the Caspian Sea,

Have agreed as follows:

Article 1

The seabed of the northern part of the Caspian Sea and the subsoil thereof, without prejudice to the continued common use of the water's surface, including protection of the freedom of navigation, agreed fishing quotas and environmental protection, shall be delimited between the Parties along a median line adjusted on the basis of the principle of justice and the agreement of the Parties.

The adjusted median line is based on a line equidistant from the agreed baselines; it includes sectors that are not the same distance from the baselines and are determined by taking account of islands and geological features, as well as other circumstances and geological expenditure incurred.

The configuration of the adjusted median line is determined by starting from the coastlines of the Parties, taking account of islands, measured from the level of the Caspian Sea on 1 January 1998, which is taken as being equal to the minus 27 metre mark of the Baltic system of heights (using the Kronshtadt tide gauge).

The geographical description of the configuration and coordinates of the line indicated above shall be made on the basis of cartographic materials and baselines agreed between the Parties and shall be recorded in a separate Protocol to be attached to this Agreement, of which it shall form an integral part.

Article 2

The Parties shall exercise their sovereign rights for the purposes of prospection for and exploitation and management of the resources of the seabed and subsoil of the northern Caspian within the limits of their respective parts of the seabed up to the line of demarcation.

The Parties shall have an exclusive right to joint prospection and exploitation of prospective structures and deposits in the event of that these extend beyond the adjusted median line. The shares falling to each of the Parties shall be determined on the basis of existing international practice and taking into account the good-neighbourly relations between the Parties.

Article 3

A Party or its legal entities and natural persons (hereinafter referred to as "representatives"), having discovered hydrocarbon deposits or having demonstrated the existence of geological structures likely to contain an accumulation of hydrocarbons in the northern part of the Caspian Sea in an area that extends beyond the adjusted median line prior to its being agreed by the Parties, shall have a priority claim to receive a licence for their prospection and exploitation, subject to the obligation to involve representatives of the other Party.

Article 4

The Parties have agreed on effective cooperation on questions of the development of export pipelines, the use of rivers and other transport routes, their shipbuilding capacity and other matters.

Article 5

Questions connected with the freedom of navigation and overflight, the laying and utilization of underwater cables, pipelines and other uses of the Caspian Sea, shall be regulated by separate bilateral and multilateral agreements between the Caspian States after the conclusion, and on the basis, a convention on the legal status of the Caspian Sea.

Article 6

The Parties shall protect and conserve the ecological system of the Caspi Sea and all the components thereof. To that end, the Parties shall take all possible measures, either individually or collectively, and shall cooperate to conserve the biological diversity of the Caspian Sea, to prevent and reduce pollution from any source, and to monitor the condition of the natural environment of the Caspian.

The Parties shall prohibit any activity that is likely seriously to damag the natural environment of the Caspian Sea.

The Parties shall endeavour to ensure that all the Caspian States sign th Agreement on the Conservation, Renewal and Rational Utilization of the Biological Resources of the Caspian as soon as possible.

Article 7

This Agreement shall not affect rights and duties arising out of international treaties and agreements, whether bilateral or multilateral, concluded individually by one or other of the Parties.

Article 8

In the event of a dispute between the Parties concerning the interpretation or application of this Agreement, the Parties shall consult each other with a view to resolving the dispute through negotiation, investigation, mediation, conciliation, arbitration, judicial proceedings or other peaceful means of their own choosing.

Article 9

This Agreement shall not impede the attainment of the overall agreement of the Caspian States concerning the legal status of the Caspian, and shall be regarded by the Parties as part of their general understandings.

Article 10

This Agreement shall be applied provisionally from the date of its signature together with the Protocol mentioned in article 1 of this Agreement, and shall enter into force on the date of the last written notification of the completion by the Parties of their domestic procedures necessary for its entry into force.

DONE at Moscow on 6 July 1998 in two originals, each in the Russian and Kazakh languages, both texts being equally authentic.

For the Russian Federation
B. N. YELTSIN

For the Republic of Kazakhstan
N. A. NAZARBAEV